S1527-3

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR OCTOBER 1990 DECEMBER 1990

Job Creation in the Area Negative Over the Year

The Number of Area Jobless Up 33%

Labor Force

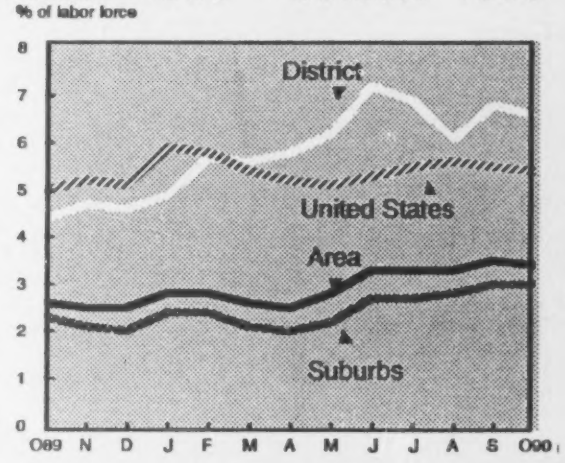
In October, the District's unemployment rate declined a modest two-tenths of a percentage point to register 6.6 percent of the labor force. The Area's rate also dropped from 3.5 percent in September to 3.4 percent in October. This was the fifth consecutive month that the Area's rate exceeded three percent. The October rate for the suburbs remained unchanged at 3.0 percent.

The unadjusted rate for all civilian workers in the United States was 5.4 percent, down from 5.5 percent in September. This October marked the ninth consecutive month that the District's rate has been above that for the nation.

The District

Between September and October, labor market changes in the District were relatively small and reflected rather traditional monthly patterns for October. For example, over the past 13 years, the District's October labor force and employment level have declined in nine years, while the unemployment level has declined in 12 of the 13 years. This is exactly the same pattern demonstrated this year. The District's labor force declined by 1,200, employment decreased by 800 and joblessness dropped by 600. This resulted in a two-tenths percent drop in the jobless rate.

Unemployment Rates
October 1989 - October 1990



The over-the-year changes, however, are relatively large and significant, fully reflecting the current downturn in the local economy. The District's unemployment rate has increased more than two full percentage points since September 1989, from a record October low of 4.4 percent last year to 6.6 percent this year. Not since October 1986, when the jobless rate was 7.5 percent has the October rate been this high. However this rate is substantially less than the record recessionary high of 11.0 percent registered in October 1983.

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Government of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry, Jr., Mayor

Department of Employment Services
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Director

The Department of Employment Services

Working to keep Washington working.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR OCTOBER 1990 DECEMBER 1990

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The *Area Labor Summary* is published monthly by the D.C. Department of Employment Services, 500 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The Labor Market Information and Research Staff (Richard Groner, Chief) prepares the *Summary*. The following staff members have contributed to the publication and development of data herein: Charles Roeslin, Rufus Daniels, Eileen Dent, Nancy Anderson-Grant, Elsie Taylor, and Gwendolyn Thompson, and administrative support was provided by Robin McDonald.

Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

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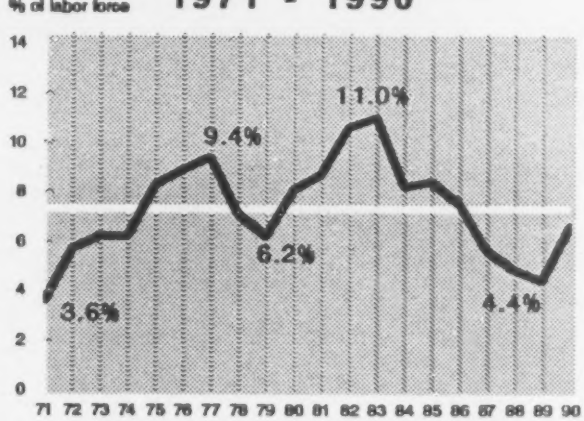
This October there were 20,100 fewer residents in the labor force and 25,800 fewer with jobs than October a year ago. This represented a 6.4 percent decline in the District's labor supply and an 8.6 percent decline in the jobholding level. In October, people on the jobless rolls numbered 19,400, or 5,600 more than the same time last year. This represented a 40.5 percent one year increase in the number of jobless workers. Background data from the household survey indicated that about half of the unemployed in October were new or renewed entrants to the labor force, while about four of every ten were job losers.

District Unemployment Rates In the Month of October 1971 - 1990



Average Rate for October 7.3%

The Area & Suburbs

The monthly patterns in the suburbs and the Area were somewhat different than in the District. In October, the suburban labor force showed a small growth of 2,700 workers. The job market was able to absorb all of the suburban increase and withdrew another 1,500 suburbanites from the jobless pool, as Area employers hired 4,400 more suburban workers. While these were relatively small changes in a labor force of 1.9 million, they were sufficient enough to keep the suburban unemployment rate unchanged at 3.0 percent.

Over the year, suburban movements showed growth in the labor supply of 29,100, or 1.5 percent. The labor market was unable, however, to absorb the increase, as employers only added 15,800 new suburban workers to their payrolls. As a result, the suburban jobless rolls increased by 13,400 workers, or by over 30 percent. This produced a significant expansion in the suburban unemployment rate of 0.7 point.

For the area as a whole, the 20,100 person over-the-year decrease in the District's labor supply tended to offset the 29,100 person increase in the suburban supply, producing only a marginal growth of 9,000 in the Area's labor supply. This represented an over-the-year growth of only four-tenths of a percentage point. On the payroll side of the ledger, the 25,800 jobs lost by District residents were substantially larger than the 15,800 increase registered by suburbanites. As a result, the number of Area residents on

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Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C., MSA by City and County

	Oct.a/ 1990	Sept.b/ 1990	Oct.b/ 1989
1. District of Columbia	**6.6**	**6.8**	**4.4**
2. Frederick County	4.7	4.9	2.3
3. Calvert County	4.4	4.3	2.9
4. Prince Georges County	4.1	4.1	2.9
5. Stafford County	3.5	3.2	2.3
6. Charles County	3.3	3.0	2.0
7. Alexandria City	3.0	3.2	2.6
8. Montgomery County	2.9	2.8	2.1
9. Manassas City	2.7	2.6	1.7
10. Prince William County	2.5	2.6	2.2
11. Arlington County	2.4	2.6	2.3
12. Fairfax County	2.1	2.3	2.0
13. Loudoun County	1.9	1.8	1.7
14. Falls Church City	1.7	1.7	2.1
15. Manassas Park City	1.7	1.8	1.4
16. Fairfax City	1.5	1.7	2.3

a/ Preliminary. b/ Revised.

SOURCE: The Department of Employment Services, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Continued from page 3

payrolls declined by 10,000 or 0.8 percent. The net effect was a 19,000 person increase in the jobless rolls, an over-the-year increase of 33 percent. Seventy percent of the jobless increase was suburban in origin. The net result was a substantial increase in the Area's unemployment rate of eight-tenths of a percentage point. Despite the increase, the Area's unemployment rate of 3.4 percent remained two full percentage points below the U.S. rate and represented one of the lowest metropolitan rates in the country.

Why is the Area rate so low despite declining jobs? The answer is the small growth in the Area's labor force. If the labor force was growing more rapidly, while jobs are declining, the Area's unemployment roll would expand even more rapidly than is currently the case. For example, over the past year, if the Washington Area's labor force had grown at a rate of 2.4 percent rather than about half a percent, and employment had remained at its October's level, then the Area's unemployment rate would be about equal to the U.S. rate of 5.4 percent. Under these conditions, there would be about 120,000 unemployed Area residents, or 45,000 more than are now on the unemployment rolls.

At a level of only 3.4 percent in a declining market, the low unemployment rate is probably signaling the possibility of future labor shortages. When Area job growth begins to recover from the current downturn, the labor shortages that existed in the late 1980's are likely to reappear.

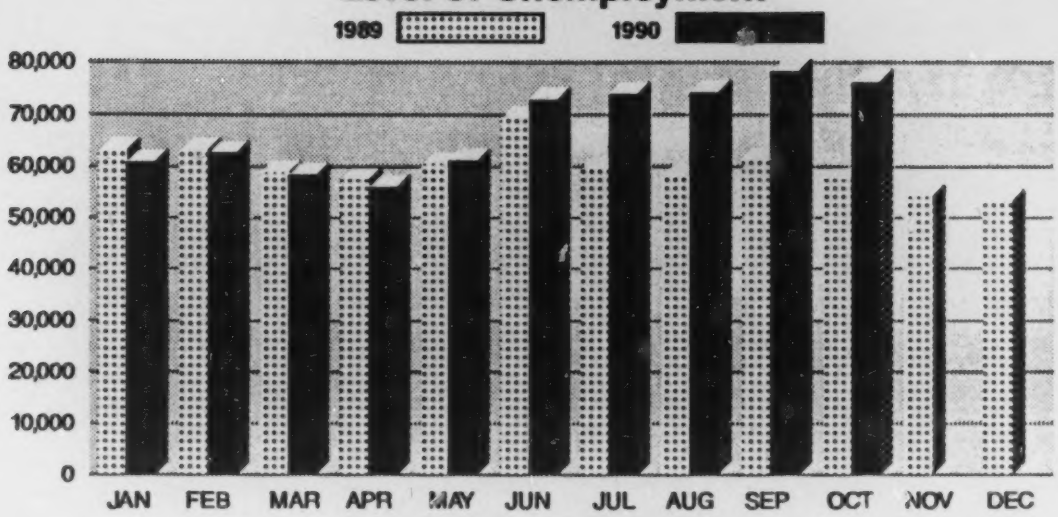
Employment Status for the Civilian Population
District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the Washington, D.C. MSA
October 1990[a/]

	Oct.[b/] 1990	Sept.[c/] 1990	Oct.[d/] 1989	Sept.[d/] 1989	Net Change From Sept. 1990	Net Change From Oct. 1989
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	294,100	295,300	314,200	312,800	-1,200	-20,100
Total Employed	274,600	275,400	300,400	297,300	-800	-25,800
Total Unemployed	19,400	20,000	13,800	15,500	-600	5,600
Unemployment Rate[e/]	6.6	6.8	4.4	5.0	-0.2	2.2
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	1,927,400	1,924,700	1,898,300	1,896,400	2,700	29,100
Total Employed	1,870,600	1,866,200	1,854,800	1,850,600	4,400	15,800
Total Unemployed	56,900	58,400	43,500	45,800	-1,500	13,400
Unemployment Rate[e/]	3.0	3.0	2.3	2.4	——	0.7
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,221,500	2,220,000	2,212,500	2,209,200	1,500	9,000
Total Employed	2,145,200	2,141,600	2,155,200	2,147,900	3,600	-10,000
Total Unemployed	76,300	78,400	57,300	61,300	-2,100	19,000
Unemployment Rate[e/]	3.4	3.5	2.6	2.8	-0.1	0.8

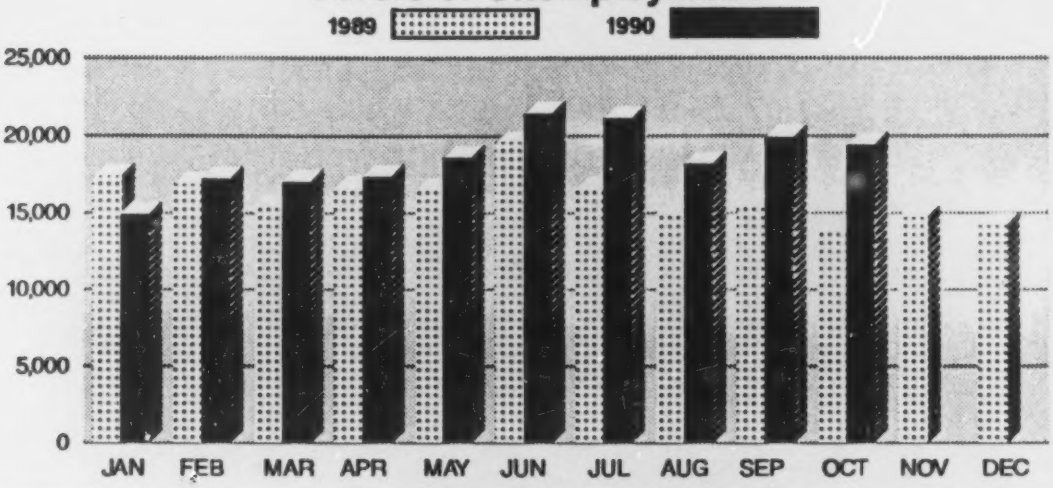
a/ Data subject to annual benchmark revisions. Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding. b/ Preliminary.
c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions. e/ Seasonally unadjusted.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia, the Virginia Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, and Stafford; and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, and Calvert.

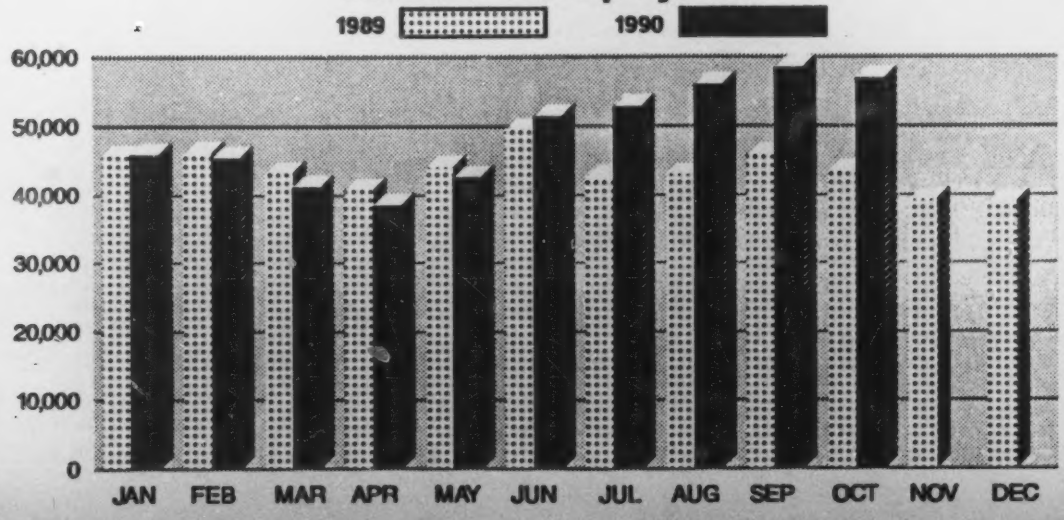
Washington Area
Level of Unemployment



District of Columbia
Levels of Unemployment



Washington Suburbs
Level of Unemployment



Labor Force Distribution
Washington Metropolitan Area
October 1990 & October 1989
(percent)

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed
		OCTOBER 1990	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	13.2	12.8	25.4
Suburbs	86.8	87.2	74.6
		OCTOBER 1989	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	14.2	13.8	25.3
Suburbs	85.8	86.2	74.7

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in the District of Columbia totaled 9,239 in October 1990 down 1,733 claimants from September, but up 694 from October 1989. In October 1990, 53 percent of all UI claimants were males. Occupationally, clerical and sales accounted for 29 percent of the total claimants. Professional, technical and managerial workers accounted for 28 percent, service workers 18 percent, structural workers 15 percent, miscellaneous workers 5 percent and the remaining 5 percent distributed between machine trade workers, bench workers, processing workers and farming, fishery, forestry and related occupations workers.

The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 9.9 weeks for all claimants in October. Over the month, the duration for males fell from 10.0 weeks to 9.7 weeks. For females, the duration rose from 9.7 weeks to 10.0 weeks. In October 1989, the average duration was 10.1 weeks for males and 10.5 for females.

Job Growth

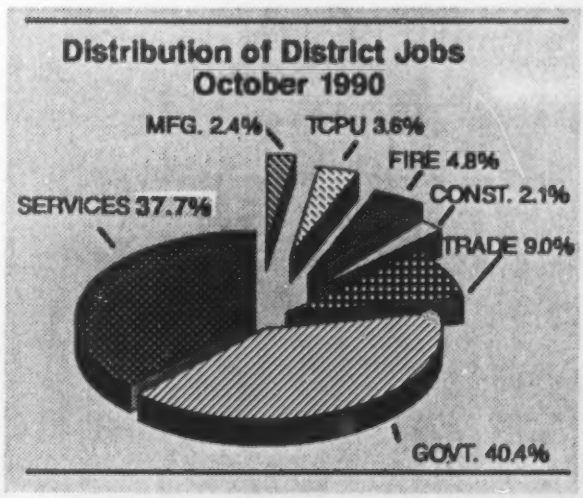
The District

The number of jobs in the District decreased by 1,200 for a loss of 0.2 percent between September and October. The public sector was responsible for the loss with a primarily seasonal decline in Federal Government (2,100 jobs) partially offset by a seasonal increase in State and Local Government (500 jobs).

The private sector grew by 400 jobs with primarily seasonal gains in Services (500 jobs).

Over the year (October 1989 to October 1990), the number of District jobs declined 0.7 percent for a loss of 4,600 jobs. The private sector decreased at a rate of 1.3 percent for a loss of 5,200 jobs. The primary job loser, Trade, accounted for 69 percent of the private sector decrease with a loss of 3,600 jobs. The substantial decline in Trade reflects both a lower level of seasonal hiring this year and the recent loss of a major retail establishment. Significant private sector losses also occurred in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (700 jobs) and Services (700 jobs).

The public sector increased at a rate of 0.2 percent with a gain in State and Local Government (1,600 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (1,000 jobs).



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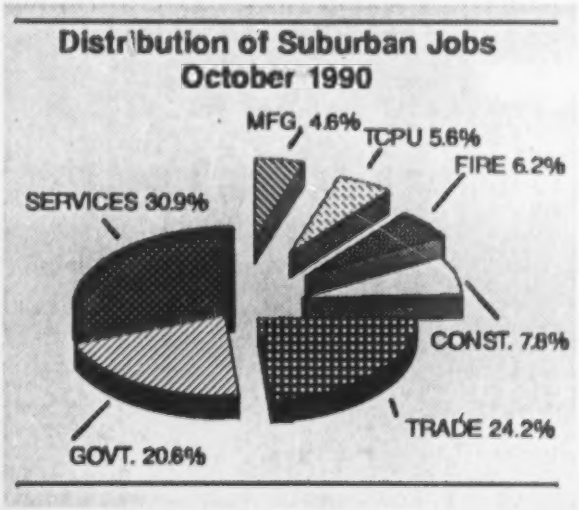
The Suburbs

The number of suburban jobs increased 0.3 percent for a gain of 4,000 jobs between September and October. The public sector was primarily responsible for the gain with a seasonal increase in State and Local Government (6,800 jobs) partially offset by a decline in Federal Government (200 jobs). The Maryland suburbs accounted for 54 percent of the growth in State and Local Government while the Virginia suburbs were responsible for the loss in Federal Government.

The private sector declined by 2,600 jobs with losses concentrated in Construction (2,800 jobs). The Virginia suburbs were responsible for 61 percent of the loss in Construction.

Over the year (October 1989 to October 1990), suburban jobs grew at a rate of 0.1 percent for a gain of 1,300 jobs. **The Maryland suburbs grew at a rate of 0.8 percent accounting for all of the suburban growth while the Virginia suburbs decreased at a rate of 0.6 percent.**

The public sector accounted for the growth in suburban jobs with a gain in State and Local Government (11,000 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (2,200 jobs) resulting in growth over the year of 2.8 percent. Seventy-seven percent of the growth in government occurred in the Maryland suburbs.



The private sector declined by 0.6 percent with growth in the service-producing sector (9,300 jobs) offset by a decline in the goods-producing sector (16,800 jobs). The primary job gainers were Trade (5,900 jobs) and Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (2,200 jobs) while job losses were primarily concentrated in Construction (14,500 jobs). Seventy-three percent of the growth as well as 88 percent of the decline in these industries occurred in the Virginia suburbs. The Virginia suburbs were responsible for 94 percent of the growth in Services (1,600 jobs) while the Maryland suburbs accounted for 61 percent of the loss in Manufacturing (2,300 jobs).

The Area

The Washington Metropolitan Area gained 2,800 jobs between September and October for an increase of 0.1 percent. The public sector was responsible for the growth with seasonal gains in State and Local Government (7,300 jobs)

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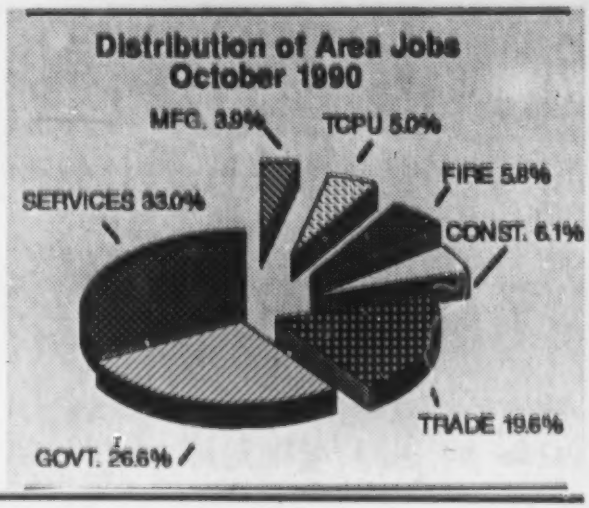
partially offset by a primarily seasonal loss in Federal Government (2,300 jobs).

The private sector declined by 0.1 percent with losses primarily in Construction (2,800 jobs).

Over the year (October 1989 to October 1990), the Area declined at a rate of 0.1 percent for a loss of 3,300 jobs. The private sector, declining at a rate of 0.8 percent for a loss of 12,700 jobs, was responsible for the Area job loss. Job losses were concentrated in Construction (14,700 jobs), Manufacturing (2,300 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,100 jobs) while job growth occurred in Trade (2,300 jobs), Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (2,200 jobs) and Services (900 jobs).

The public sector grew at a rate of 1.6 percent with gains in State and Local Government (12,600 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (3,200 jobs).



Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a/]
(in thousands)

	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
INDUSTRY	Oct.[b/] 1990	Sept.[c/] 1990	Oct.[d/] 1989	Oct.[b/] 1990	Sept.[c/] 1990	Oct.[d/] 1989
TOTAL	**681.4**	**682.6**	**686.0**	**2,248.1**	**2,245.3**	**2,251.4**
Total Private Sector	**406.0**	**405.6**	**411.2**	**1,650.5**	**1,652.7**	**1,663.2**
Total Government	**275.4**	**277.0**	**274.8**	**597.6**	**592.6**	**588.2**
Total Goods Producing	**30.4**	**30.4**	**30.8**	**225.7**	**226.8**	**242.7**
Manufacturing	**16.1**	**16.1**	**16.1**	**87.0**	**87.9**	**89.9**
Total Durables	2.4	2.4	2.3	41.5	41.6	43.9
Stone, Clay, Glass Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.1	3.1	3.4
Electronic & Electric Equip.	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.0	17.0	17.3
All Other Durable	N/A	N/A	N/A	21.4	21.5	23.2
Total Non-Durable	13.7	13.7	13.8	46.1	46.3	46.0
Food & Kindred Products	0.3	0.3	0.3	4.7	4.7	4.7
Printing & Publishing	13.0	13.0	13.1	35.5	35.7	35.5
All Other Non-Durable	0.4	0.4	0.4	5.9	5.9	5.8
Mining	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**1.1**	**1.1**	**1.1**
Construction	**14.2**	**14.2**	**14.4**	**137.0**	**139.8**	**151.7**
Total Service Producing	**651.0**	**652.2**	**655.4**	**2022.4**	**2016.5**	**2008.7**
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	**24.6**	**24.6**	**24.6**	**112.9**	**112.1**	**110.7**
All Transportation	9.7	9.8	9.8	58.7	57.8	56.2
Railroads	4.2	4.2	4.1	5.3	5.3	5.3
Transportation ex. Railroad	5.5	5.6	5.7	53.4	52.5	50.9
Communications & Public Utilities	14.9	14.8	14.8	54.2	54.3	54.5

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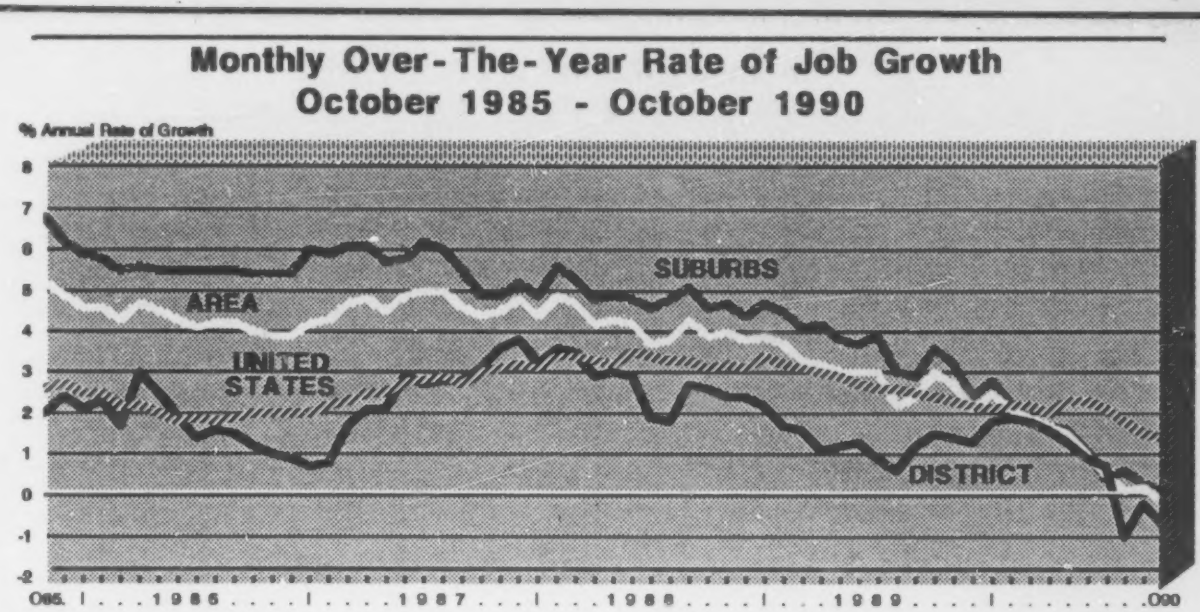
Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a/]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	Oct.[b/] 1990	Sept.[c/] 1989	Oct.[c/] 1989	Oct.[b/] 1990	Sept.[c/] 1989	Oct.[c/] 1989
Trade	**61.2**	**61.2**	**64.8**	**440.7**	**440.0**	**438.4**
Wholesale	8.2	8.2	8.4	77.8	77.9	78.9
Retail	53.0	53.0	56.4	362.9	362.1	359.5
General Merchandise	N/A	N/A	N/A	39.5	39.3	40.3
Food Stores	N/A	N/A	N/A	53.6	53.3	50.5
Automotive	N/A	N/A	N/A	38.1	38.7	38.8
Apparel & Accessories	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.6	26.1	27.8
Eating & Drinking Places	26.9	27.1	29.1	117.1	117.6	116.5
All Other Retail	26.1	25.9	27.3	88.0	87.1	85.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	**32.6**	**32.7**	**33.3**	**129.6**	**130.2**	**130.7**
Finance	15.3	15.5	15.9	60.0	60.1	60.7
Depository Institutions	8.4	8.4	9.2	39.0	39.0	39.5
Other Finance	6.9	7.1	6.7	21.0	21.1	21.2
Insurance	7.4	7.4	7.7	26.9	26.8	26.8
Real Estate	9.9	9.8	9.7	42.7	43.3	43.2
Services	**257.2**	**256.7**	**257.9**	**741.6**	**741.6**	**740.7**
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	17.4	17.1	17.1	37.8	37.5	36.9
Personal Services	3.2	3.2	3.6	22.7	22.6	22.5
Business Services	38.9	39.5	41.5	180.7	181.3	183.1
Services to Buildings	14.6	14.8	15.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Personnel Supply	8.1	8.3	9.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Computer & Data Process	6.1	6.2	6.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Business Services	10.1	10.2	10.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Services	37.0	36.8	36.7	114.6	114.2	111.8
Legal Services	30.3	29.8	29.5	41.2	40.8	40.1
Educational Services	31.1	31.2	30.2	44.4	44.3	43.9
Social Services	12.2	12.3	12.2	34.2	33.9	33.6
Membership Organizations	34.0	33.9	32.8	60.2	60.0	58.6
Engineering/Management Ser.	43.1	43.0	44.0	142.4	142.6	146.3
All Other Services	10.0	9.9	10.3	63.1	64.4	63.9
Government	**275.4**	**277.0**	**274.8**	**597.6**	**592.6**	**588.2**
Federal Government	218.9	221.0	219.9	363.0	365.3	366.2
State & Local Government	56.5	56.0	54.9	234.6	227.3	222.0
State Government	51.7	51.2	50.2	83.3	81.1	80.8
Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	151.3	146.2	141.2
Public Transportation	4.8	4.8	4.7	N/A	N/A	N/A

a/ Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding. Data subject to annual benchmark revisions. b/ Preliminary. c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions.

Data includes all full-and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.


Monthly Over-The-Year Rate of Job Growth
October 1985 - October 1990
% Annual Rate of Growth
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
SUBURBS
AREA
UNITED STATES
DISTRICT
O85. I . . . 1986 . . . . I . . . . 1987 . . . I . . . 1988 . . . . I . . . 1989 . . . . I O90

Area Job Growth Rates

Over the past five years (October 1985 to October 1990), the Washington Area has created new jobs at a rate of 3.6 percent. Measured by monthly over-the-year changes, however, the rate of growth has declined from a peak of 5.2 percent in October 1985.

In October for the first time in nearly eight years, Area over-the-year job growth was negative. Between October 1989 and October 1990, the Area economy recorded a net job loss of one tenth of a percent. The last time the Area reported a negative job growth number was November 1982, the very last month of the 1981-1982 national recession. This year's over-the-year loss was down sharply from the 3.0 percent job growth reported for October 1989.

During October, suburban over-the-year job creation was still positive, but by a very modest one-tenth of a percent. This October's suburban growth was also down significantly from the yearly growth of 3.6 percent registered in October 1989. In the District, the number of jobs actually declined over the year by seven-tenths of a percentage point. The loss of jobs this year compares to a growth of 1.2 percent recorded a year ago.

In absolute terms, job creation in the Area has declined from a gain of 96,600 new jobs between October 1984 and October 1985, to a loss of 3,300 jobs between October 1989 and this past October. Over the past year, only 1,300 new jobs were added to the Suburban economy, while the District lost 4,600 jobs. **The sluggish U.S. economy in October produced a small number of new jobs compared to the job losses in the Washington Area (a 1.4 percent increase for the U.S. economy vs. the local loss of 0.1 percent).** October was the ninth consecutive month in which the rate of growth in local jobs was below the rate for all of the United States.

NOTE: It should be recognized that the monthly estimates of jobs are subject to annual benchmark revisions. These revisions can be plus or minus one percent or more, a range well within the current measurements of change.

Hire More Workers,

Pay Less Taxes!

TARGETED JOBS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM (TJTC)

(Call 639-1661)

Profile of Job Growth Rates
October 1985 to October 1990

The Area	
Average 60 months	3.6%
High, October 1985	5.2%
Low, October 1990	-0.1%
1-year ago	3.0%
Last month	0.2%
Current month	-0.1%
The Suburbs	
Average 60 months	4.4%
High, October 1985	7.0%
Low, October 1990	0.1%
1-year ago	3.6%
Last month	0.3%
Current month	0.1%
The District	
Average 60 months	1.9%
High, December 1987	3.8%
Low, August 1990	-1.0%
1-year ago	1.5%
Last month	-0.2%
Current month	-0.7%

Note: Data reflects benchmark revisions for 1988-1989.

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Department of Employment Services

Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Areas

In September 1990, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 269 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. The Washington Area's September jobless rate was up 0.2 percentage point to 3.5 percent. This was the thirty-fifth lowest jobless rate of the 269 areas reporting. A year ago, the Washington Area rate was 2.8 percent.

Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the Washington Area's rate at 3.5 percent was the second lowest of all the major metropolitan areas.

The Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, reported a 0.1 percentage point rise in its September jobless rate to 4.9 percent. The Baltimore rate has increased three of the last four months. A year ago, the Baltimore rate was 4.1 percent.

The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington, recorded a 0.5 percentage point increase in its September jobless rate, up from 3.8 percent to 4.3 percent. A year ago, the rate was 3.6 percent.

In addition to the Washington, D.C. Area, jobless rates between 3.0 percent and 3.9 percent were reported in 8 other selected metropolitan areas, the lowest being recorded in Seattle—3.4 percent. Milwaukee also had a jobless rate of 3.5 percent.

There were 16 large metropolitan areas with rates between 4.0 and 4.9 percent. There were 9 large metropolitan areas with rates between 5.0 and 5.9 percent, and 7 large metropolitan areas with rates between 6.0 and 6.9 percent. There were 3 areas with rates above 7 percent with the largest posted by the New York Area at 7.2 percent.

Of the 269 metropolitan areas for which September data are available, 45 had over-the-year increases of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rate, while 15 had decreases of that magnitude. A total of 62 areas had September 1990 rates below 4 percent, while 47 had rates of 7 percent or higher.

Unemployment Rates in Selected Statistical Areas

MSA	September 1990*	1989
1. Seattle, WA	3.4	4.6
2. Washington, D.C.	**3.5**	**2.8**
3. Milwaukee, WI	3.5	4.0
4. San Francisco, CA	3.7	3.3
5. Denver, CO	3.7	4.2
6. Indianapolis, IN	3.7	4.1
7. Cincinnati, OH	3.8	4.0
8. Columbus, OH	3.8	4.3
9. Phoenix, AR	4.0	4.3
10. Salt Lake City, UT	4.1	4.1
11. Richmond-Petersburg, VA	4.3	3.6
12. Nashville, TN	4.3	3.6
13. Cleveland, OH	4.3	4.4
14. Pittsburgh, PA	4.4	3.9
15. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	4.4	4.0
16. Buffalo, NY	4.4	5.6
17. Oakland, CA	4.5	4.2
18. Portland, OR	4.5	4.4
19. Oklahoma City, OK	4.5	4.4
20. Dayton, OH	4.6	4.6
21. Sacramento, CA	4.7	4.8
22. Philadelphia, PA	4.8	3.8
23. Memphis, TN	4.8	4.4
24. Baltimore, MD	4.9	4.1
25. San Diego, CA	5.1	4.2
26. Kansas City, MO	5.1	4.8
27. Jackson, MS	5.3	5.1
28. Dallas, TX	5.4	5.3
29. Gary, IN	5.4	5.3
30. Newark, NJ	5.5	4.6
31. Houston, TX	5.5	5.6
32. Boston, MA	5.5	3.8
33. Louisville, KY	5.7	7.2
34. St. Louis, MO	6.1	5.3
35. Los Angeles, CA	6.1	4.8
36. Atlanta, GA	6.4	5.7
37. Birmingham, AL	6.4	5.6
38. Chicago, IL	6.5	5.4
39. New Orleans, LA	6.7	6.4
40. Miami, FL	6.9	6.5
41. Montgomery, AL	7.0	6.2
42. Detroit, MI	7.0	7.9
43. New York, NY	7.2	5.8

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

States

When the District of Columbia (with a September preliminary unemployment rate of 6.8 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the sixth highest jobless rate in the County. This was five notches above August's standing. Virginia's rate at 4.3 percent was up 0.2 percentage point from August. Maryland's rate also was up 0.1 percentage point to 4.5 percent. Virginia and Maryland have two of the seventeen lowest jobless rates among the 51 jurisdictions. This month, Maryland and Virginia ranked thirty-fifth and fortieth, respectively, in the standings. A year ago, Maryland's rate was 3.7 percent, while Virginia's was 3.9 percent.

Eight states and the District of Columbia reported over-the-year increases in their unemployment rate of 1 percentage point or more. The largest increases were in Delaware (2.2 percentage points), Massachusetts (1.9 points), the District of Columbia (1.8 points) and Rhode Island (1.7 points). Washington and Wyoming were the only two states to have declines in their rates in excess of 1 percentage point.

Eight states had September unemployment rates below 4 percent. The lowest were in Nebraska (2.1 percent), Hawaii (2.8 percent), North Carolina (3.3 percent) and North Dakota and South Dakota (both 3.4 percent). At the upper end, four states had unemployment rates of 7 percent or more. West Virginia was the highest (9.0 percent), followed by Alabama (7.5 percent), Mississippi (7.1 percent) and Louisiana (7.0 percent).

Cities

In comparison with the 25 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with a September preliminary rate of 6.8 percent) had the twelfth highest jobless rate. This was two notches above the position held last month. The average unemployment rate of the 26 cities was up 0.1 percentage point to 7.0 percent in September. A year ago, the rate was 0.4 percentage point lower at 6.6 percent.

Seven cities reported jobless rates at or below 6 percent, with the lowest posted in Salt Lake City and Columbus 4.1 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively. In September, both Pittsburgh and San Francisco reported jobless rates of 4.4 percent.

Baltimore's rate at 7.5 percent was up 0.1 percentage point from August. Baltimore held the seventeenth position among the 26 selected cities. The September 1990 rate was 1.0 percentage point higher than the September 1989 rate.

The central city of Gary temporarily fell out of the double digit column in September, its rate dropping a full 2.8 percentage points to 9.3 percent. This is just 0.1 percentage point above the September 1989 rate for Gary.

Newark became the latest double digiter this month. Newark's jobless rate was the highest among the 26 cities, rising 0.9 percentage point over the month to 10.4 percent. Last September, Newark's rate was 9.2 percent.

Detroit's jobless rate dropped 1.4 percentage points over the month to 10.2 percent. Detroit had held the twenty-sixth position in August but dropped to the twenty-fifth position this month. A year ago, Detroit's rate was 2.2 percentage points higher at 12.4 percent.

Of the 26 selected central cities, only eight cities reported decreases in joblessness while seventeen cities reported increases in joblessness over the year. The largest decreases were reported by Detroit and Buffalo, 2.2 and 1.7 percentage points, respectively. **The largest increase in joblessness was reported by the District of Columbia, up 1.8 percentage points over the year.** This was followed by New York 1.7 percentage points and Boston 1.6 percentage points. Over the year, Cleveland's rate was unchanged at 6.9 percent.

Unemployment rates by state, September 1990

Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities

	September 1990*	September 1989
1. Salt Lake City, UT	4.1	4.3
2. Columbus, OH	4.2	4.7
3. Pittsburgh, PA	4.4	3.9
4. San Francisco, CA	4.4	4.1
5. Milwaukee, WI	4.6	5.2
6. Cincinnati, OH	4.8	5.3
7. Houston, TX	6.0	6.1
8. Boston, MA	6.1	4.5
9. Philadelphia, PA	6.3	4.9
10. Dallas, TX	6.3	6.1
11. Buffalo, NY	6.3	8.0
12. District of Columbia	**6.8**	**5.0**
13. Cleveland, OH	6.9	6.9
14. Los Angeles, CA	6.9	5.4
15. New Orleans, LA	7.2	7.3
16. Dayton, OH	7.2	7.1
17. Baltimore, MD	7.5	6.5
18. New York, NY	7.9	6.2
19. Miami, FL	8.5	8.0
20. Chicago, IL	8.6	7.3
21. St. Louis, MO	8.8	8.6
22. Birmingham, AL	8.9	7.6
23. Atlanta, GA	9.2	8.5
24. Gary, IN	9.3	9.2
25. Detroit, MI	10.2	12.4
26. Newark, NJ	10.4	9.2

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

Unemployment Insurance Activities—October 1990

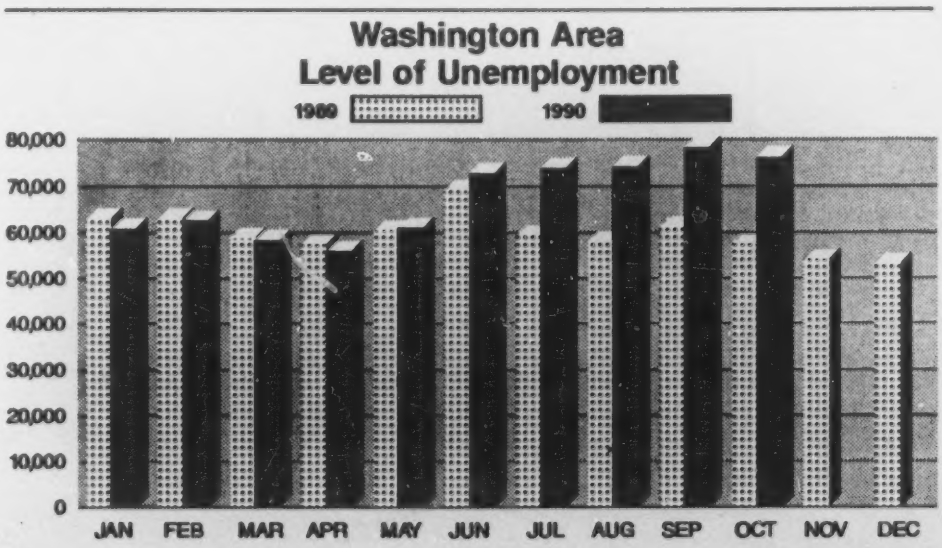
Claims filed for unemployment compensation for workers in the District of Columbia totalled 3,930 in October 1990. This was 33 percent above September. The current claimsload level was second only to January of this year, when the weather and other seasonal factors ran the claims level above 4,100. The rise in claims for this month was somewhat expected. Since October is the first month of a calendar quarter, and also represents the time when the base period changes for monetary determination of benefits under unemployment insurance laws, the claimsload is seasonally high.

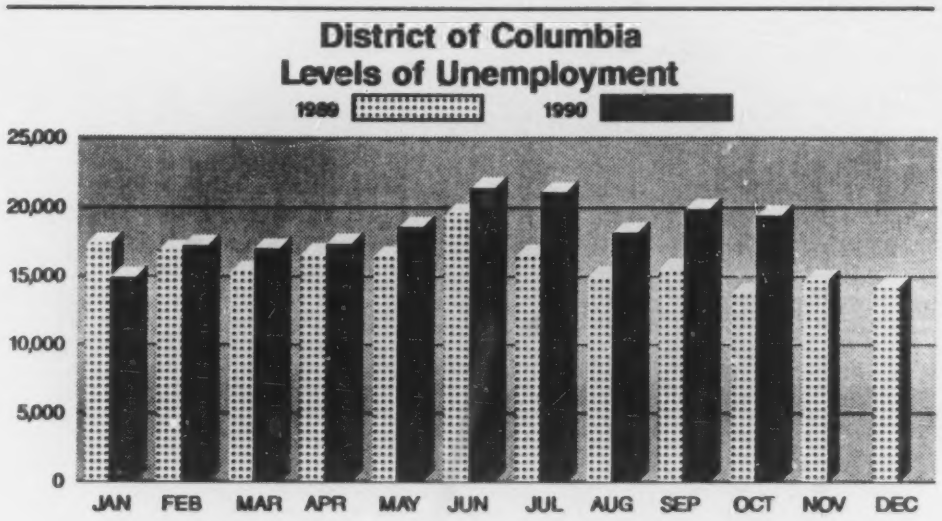
The rise in October last year was 28 percent, and the previous two years was 17 and 12 percents, respectively. The change-of-base year and this October phenomenon occurs principally for monetary reasons. Several of the October claimants were actually eligible in September, but because their base year as of October for benefit determination had higher wages (and a potential for higher benefits) than as of September, they waited until October to file for benefits.

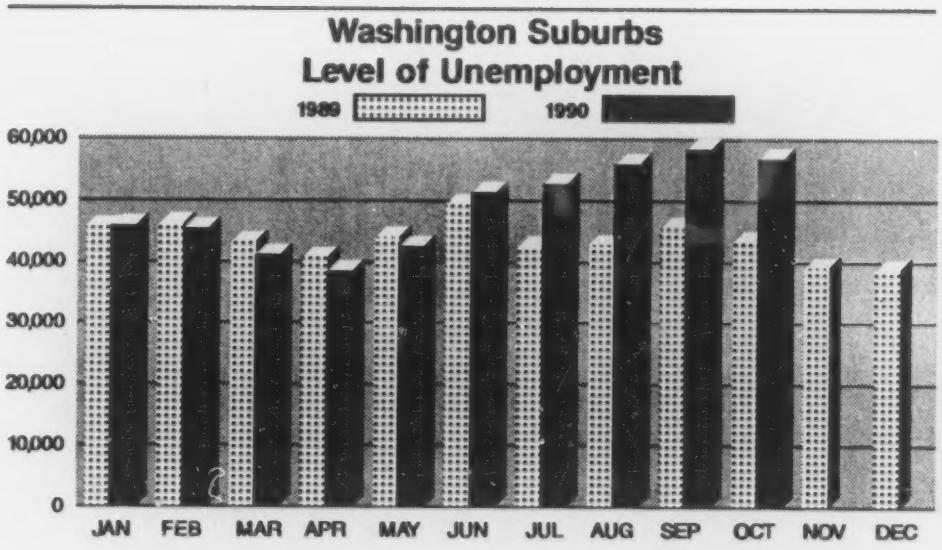
There has been a surge of filers in the first month of the calendar quarter of each year—with the possible exception of April in the last three years—for this reason. In addition this year, claims have been generally higher each month, particularly since June, when layoffs because of closures and cutbacks in staff began to take effect.

The number of weeks compensated climbed to 43,840—15 percent above last month, but a whopping 44 percent over the same time last year. Only in August of this year were the compensated weeks higher—and then by only less than 10 weeks. Likewise, the $9.3 million benefit outlay was, like the compensated weeks, second only to August. The October outlay was just $63,921 shy of August. Compared to October last year, however, it soared 53 percent—the highest yearly relative change of all the measures discussed for all programs.

Through the first ten months of this calendar year, 33,340 claims have been taken, compared to 29,690 at this time last year. Currently the yearly increase to date is 12 percent. Through the end of the second quarter, however, claims were only half as high (7 percent). Weeks compensated through October of this year numbered 374,190 or 10 percent above last year. Outlay, at $77.4 million for ten months of 1990 outstripped last year by $10 million. The average weekly benefit amount (rising from $197.42 to $206.81) and the weeks compensated (a ten percent increase) combined to account for the outlay surge.




District of Columbia
Levels of Unemployment
1989
1990
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
JUN
JUL
AUG
SEP
OCT
NOV
DEC


Washington Suburbs
Level of Unemployment
1989
1990
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
JUN
JUL
AUG
SEP
OCT
NOV
DEC

Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
(Regular Programs)
District of Columbia
October 1990

	Oct. 1990	Sept. 1990	Oct. 1989	% Change From Sept. 1990	% Change From Oct. 1989
State UI Program[a/]					
Initial Claims Taken	3,756	2,852	2,768	+31.7	+35.7
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	40,651	35,747	29,200	+13.7	+39.2
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	41,453	35,981	27,936	+15.2	+48.4
Total Benefits Paid	$8,755,179	$7,561,993	$5,520,084	+15.8	+58.6
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$211.21	$210.17	$190.60	+0.5	+6.9
Number of First Payments	2,068	1,881	1,369	+9.9	+51.1
Number of Final Payments	1,079	834	764	+29.4	+41.2
Total Beneficiaries	10,772	10,729	7,912	+0.4	+36.1
Federal Program[b/]					
Initial Claims Taken	145	71	112	+104.2	+29.5
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	2,074	1,744	2,061	+18.9	+0.6
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	2,132	1,776	2,290	+20.0	-6.9
Total Benefits Paid	$486,339	$409,528	$529,274	+18.8	-8.1
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$228.11	$230.59	$231.12	-1.1	-1.3
Number of First Payments	117	76	110	+53.9	+6.4
Number of Final Payments	56	49	104	+14.3	-46.2
Total Beneficiaries	540	492	664	+9.8	-18.7
Ex-Servicepersons Program[c/]					
Initial Claims Taken	33	33	29	+0.0	+13.8
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	366	298	254	+22.8	+44.1
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	259	233	204	+11.2	+27.0
Total Benefits Paid	$54,434	$49,160	$44,512	+10.7	+22.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$210.17	$210.99	$218.20	-0.4	-3.7
Number of First Payments	27	15	21	+80.0	+28.6
Number of Final Payments	16	13	10	+23.1	+60.0
Total Beneficiaries	78	73	64	+6.8	+21.9
Total—All Programs					
Initial Claims Taken	3,934	2,956	2,909	+33.1	+35.2
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	43,091	37,789	31,515	+14.0	+36.7
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	43,844	37,990	30,430	+15.4	+44.1
Total Benefits Paid	$9,295,952	$8,020,681	$6,093,870	+15.9	+52.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$212.02	$211.13	$200.26	+0.4	+5.9
Number of First Payments	2,212	1,972	1,500	+12.2	+47.5
Number of Final Payments	1,151	896	878	+28.5	+31.1
Total Beneficiaries	11,390	11,294	8,640	+0.9	+31.8

a/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).
b/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation of Ex-Serviceperson (UCX).
c/ No joint claims.

Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for October 1990 increased $2.83. Average Weekly Hours increased .1 hour, as Average Hourly Earnings rose 4 cents.

In the Durable Goods Sector, Stone, Clay and Glass Products reported an increase in Weekly Earnings of $32.41. Weekly Hours increased 1.7 hours, while Hourly Earnings rose by 27 cents. All of the increases were due to more business.

In the Non-Durable Goods Sector, decreases in Food and Kindred Products reflected less overtime being worked. As a result, Weekly Earnings declined by $43.73 and Weekly Hours dropped 1.1 hours. Hourly Earnings showed a substantial drop of 75 cents.

Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing
Washington Metropolitan Area
October 1990

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989
Total Manufacturing	496.83	494.00	477.58	39.4	39.3	39.6	12.61	12.57	12.06
Durable Goods	524.91	519.35	496.22	42.4	42.5	43.0	12.38	12.22	11.54
Stone Clay & Glass Products	559.09	526.68	511.50	47.3	45.6	46.5	11.82	11.55	11.00
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	484.57	484.46	455.18	41.1	41.8	43.6	11.79	11.59	10.44
Other Durable Goods	530.86	530.03	506.04	41.8	42.2	42.1	12.70	12.56	12.02
Non-Durable Goods	473.06	473.80	461.32	36.9	36.7	36.7	12.82	12.91	12.57
Food & Kindred Products	439.32	483.05	452.41	41.8	42.9	42.6	10.51	11.26	10.62
Printing & Publishing	499.82	494.82	482.67	35.1	34.7	34.6	14.24	14.26	13.95
Other Non-Durable Goods	395.37	393.87	388.23	41.4	41.2	41.7	9.55	9.56	9.31

Total Production Workers	Oct. 1990	Sep. 1990	Oct. 1989
	40,700	41,100	41,600

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Government of the
District of Columbia
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